



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement on Situation in Georgia**

As delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
May 6, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States has taken note of the news reports that indicate Ajara leader Aslan Abashidze has departed Georgia and we welcome this news and we feel that Mr. Abashidze's departure opens the way for Ajara's reintegration into the constitutional order and the reestablishment of democracy and the reestablishment of rule of law.

In addition to congratulating the people of Ajara and the rest of Georgia, we would also remind the Georgian government that it has a special responsibility to follow through on its declared commitment to restoring democracy, fairness and respect for human rights in Ajara. The United States stands ready to assist the Georgian government in that area.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.